

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-27 have been rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 7-31 of copending application No. 09/818,800.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 15-16, 19-21, and 23-25 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kuebert, et al. (U.S. 2002/0165729).

Kuebert, et al. discloses the following in his abstract:

"The principles of the present invention provide the ability to flexibly change the delivery point and time for a mail item, while the item is en route. The recipient, sender, or mailer may flexibly change the delivery point of the item alone or in combination with each other. While an item is en route between the sending point and the delivery point, a notification is sent to indicate that the item is in transit. In response, the delivery of the item may be changed. For example, the destination specified by the sender (e.g., the delivery address written on the item) may be changed or a delivery time may be specified. The item is then delivered to the new delivery point and/or at the specified delivery time."

Kuebert does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1, as amended, and those claims dependent thereon, namely; capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image; transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to alphanumerics; utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the availability of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device.

An advantage of the foregoing is that a visually impaired recipient may receive an image that consisted of text and graphics via a tactile communication device.

Claims 3, 11 and 27 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al.

Kuebert does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1, as amended, and those claims dependent thereon, namely; capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image; transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to alphanumerics; utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the availability of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device.

An advantage of the foregoing is that a visually impaired recipient may receive an image that consisted of text and graphics via a tactile communication device.

Claims 4-8, 13 and 26 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al. in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,862).

Srinivasan discloses the following in lines 36-61 of column 2:

"To do so, the present invention provides a sender with a single subscriber number to call in order to send or leave a message. Both the sender and a subscriber may select their preferred medium of communication. If the two are different, the present invention provides the necessary conversion. In addition, the present invention can notify a subscriber when a message has been received via the subscriber's preferred "message waiting" notification mechanism. Finally, messages can be stored, routed, or communicated to other subscribers. IN such a fashion, the present invention provides for sending and receiving messages anywhere, at any time, in any form.

More particularly, the present invention provides a method and system whereby a subscriber may automatically and in a predetermined fashion direct the routing of messages having any of a number of different media formats including, but not limited to, facsimile, pages, voice mail, electronic mail (e-mail), video mail, and other types of media. Messages may be routed to a variety of different types of destinations also including, but not limited to, facsimile machines, pager systems, voice mail systems, e-mail systems, video mail systems, and others. Specific destinations are preselected before receipt of the messages depending upon various subscriber designated parameters such as the type of message, date, and time of day."

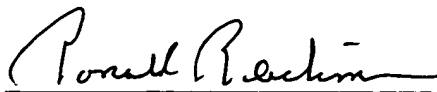
Claims 4-8, 13 and 26 depend on claim 1. The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1, as amended, and those claims dependent thereon, namely; capturing the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image; transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to alphanumerics; utilizing the telephone number of the recipient and the translated image alphanumerics to inform the recipient of the availability of the deposited mail via a tactile communication device.

An advantage of the foregoing is that a visually impaired recipient may receive an image that consisted of text and graphics via a tactile communication device.

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In view of the above, claims 1-27 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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